

The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 1 OF 2015

WHEREAS, females between the ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate almost triple the national average; and

WHEREAS, one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

WHEREAS, high school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at greater risk of suicide and are much more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship ever tell anyone about the abuse, and 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is one; and

WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships and relationship skills and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, the Centre County Women's Resource Center works hard to raise community awareness and to provide training for teachers, counselors and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and

WHEREAS, the Centre County Women's Resource Center works with youth and teens to help them recognize healthy relationships, identify unhealthy behaviors, seek help, and become engaged bystanders; and

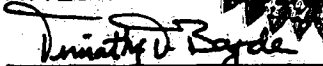
WHEREAS, everyone has the right to a safe and healthy relationship and to be free from abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim February 2015, as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" in Centre County and urges everyone in our community to work toward ending teen dating violence by empowering young people to develop healthier relationships, assisting victims in accessing the information and supportive services they need, creating better and more resources for young people in need, instituting effective intervention and prevention policies in schools and engaging in discussions with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of teen dating violence.

ADOPTED this 17th day of February, 2015

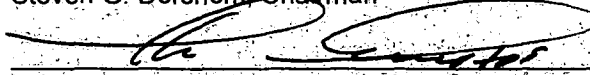


ATTEST:


Timothy T. Boyde, Director
Administrative Services

CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Steven G. Dershem, Chairman


C. Chris Exarchos


Michael Pipe